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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

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MAY - 2 1992

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

TO: P - Mr. Kanter
FROM: EAP - Richard H. Solomon
SUBJECT: Press Themes for your visit to Beijing

The following are press themes and Q/A's for use if you decide to hold a press conference in China. Beijing's foreign press corps is aggressive, tough and often cynical about our dialogue with Chinese leaders. While recognizing the important benefits of keeping the Chinese economy open, they will examine critically any claims of progress in other areas, and look for follow-through. At the same time, the fact that you may hold a press conference will put pressure on the Chinese to show results and you could use the opportunity to make our points about the necessity for progress on human rights, nonproliferation and trade issues. My recommendation is that you wait until the end of your talks to decide.

If you do meet the press, your comments will be studied carefully in Congress for signs of progress or lack thereof. In addition to reporting on any specific results of your talks, I suggest you emphasize the following broad themes:

Purpose of visit. Visit is familiarization for me, and part of our continuing dialogue with the Chinese on bilateral and international issues.

Continuing cooperation. We are pleased with cooperation in areas of common international interest, including Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Korea. This is an important benefit of the President's policy of continued engagement with China.

Achievements of the President's policy. Important progress has been achieved, especially on trade and proliferation issues. Particularly valuable are the intellectual property rights agreement, Chinese accession to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, their agreement to abide by the guidelines and parameters of the MTCR, and their willingness to host an experts delegation to discuss details of the MTCR.

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Internal Developments. China is embarked on a long-term and difficult task of economic liberalization, which we welcome. Deng Xiaoping's recommitment of the leadership to economic reform is heartening and good news for the people of China. What is lacking is a similar commitment to reforming the political system.

Human Rights. Like the Secretary in November, human rights issues were at the top of your agenda. The Chinese government is aware that lack of progress in this field will remain a serious obstacle to normal relations with the United States. The President and the American people are particularly concerned for the welfare of those held in Chinese prisons merely for non-violent expression of their political and religious beliefs.

Attachment: Proposed press q's and a's

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Drafted: EAP/CM - DCamp *de*

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Cleared: EAP/CM - MMohr
EAP/CM - RPerito } *de b*
EAP/P - EYamauchi }
EAP - DAnderson }
PA - RBoucher *m 6r*
P - MMcMillion *m 6r*